a positive electrode;

a separator impregnated with an electrolyte; and

a negative electrode comprising hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder, wherein said hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder has a layer of hydrogen-absorbing alloy oxide formed on the surface thereof, and a catalytic metal or metal compound is dotted on said layer of hydrogen-absorbing alloy oxide in a granular state by adding a substrate which is soluble in the electrolyte; said substrate being selected from the group consisting of a metal fluoride, a metal chloride, a metal iodide, and a metal sulfide, wherein said metal chloride is a cobalt chloride and/or a nickel chloride; and

the proportion of said substance to said hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder is restricted within the range of 0.1 to 2.5 wt%.

5. (Amended) A metal hydride alkaline storage cell comprising:

a positive electrode;

a separator impregnated with an electrolyte; and

a negative electrode comprising hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder, wherein said hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder has a layer of hydrogen-absorbing alloy oxide formed on the surface thereof, and a catalytic metal or metal compound is dotted on said layer of hydrogen-absorbing alloy oxide in a granular state by adding a substrate which is soluble in the electrolyte; said substrate being selected from the group consisting of a metal fluoride, a metal chloride, a metal iodide, and a metal sulfide, wherein said metal iodide is a cobalt iodide and/or a nickel iodide; and

the proportion of said substance to said hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder is restricted within the range of 0.1 to 2.5 wt%.

6. (Amended) A metal hydride alkaline storage cell comprising:

a positive electrode;

a separator impregnated with an electrolyte; and

a negative electrode comprising hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder, wherein said hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder has a layer of hydrogen-absorbing alloy oxide formed on the surface thereof, and a catalytic metal or metal compound is dotted on said layer of hydrogen-absorbing alloy oxide in a granular state by adding a substrate which is soluble in the electrolyte; said substrate being selected from the group consisting of a metal fluoride, a metal chloride, a metal iodide, and a metal sulfide, wherein said metal sulfide is a cobalt sulfide and/or a nickel sulfide; and

the proportion of said substance to said hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder is restricted within the range of 0.1 to 2.5 wt%.

7. (Amended) The metal hydride alkaline storage cell of claim 4, 5, or 6 wherein said hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder is selected from the group consisting of rare-earth element based hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder, Zr-Ni based hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder, Ti-Fe based hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder, Zr-Mn based hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder, Ti-Mn based hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder, and Mg-Ni based hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder.

11. (Amended) The method of claim 9 or 10 wherein said metal fluoride comprises a compound selected from the group consisting of a cobalt fluoride, a nickel fluoride, an aluminum fluoride, and a copper fluoride.